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4 March 1955

Executive, Research and Reports

Chief, D/B/RR

Draft of Presentation to be given before the Appropriations
Committee of Congress

1. I enclose a draft on the NIS Program for use by DD/I in
his presentation before the Appropriations Committee of the Congress,
together with the following two progress reports:

a. NIS Production Accomplishment as of 31 December 1954

b. Percentage of Completion -- All NIS Areas

2. We are transmitting under separate cover: Percent
Completion of NIS Areas (JCS Priority List of the NIS). Group I

3. There is also attached the copy of report given at last
year's hearings which you had sent down for my information.

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[REDACTED]

Encls - 3

- 1 - Dft on NISP
- 1 - Percent of Comp.
- 1 - Rpt

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ORR/D/B: [REDACTED]:f

Distribution:

- Orig & 1 - Addressee
- 1 - D/B (NIS Program - Presentation to Congress file)

(See also NIS Program - General III file)

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C O P YNational Intelligence Surveys

In conclusion, I want to stress a very significant part of the total effort of the intelligence community which takes a large portion of the budget of the Office of Research and Reports. This is the National Intelligence Survey program with which you are already familiar. Dollar-wise, this program is providing a sound investment at reasonable cost to the Government. [The NIS Program was initiated by direction of the National Security Council in 1948 in order to assure full and timely intelligence on all foreign countries of the world in the event of another war. The deficiencies in such basic intelligence during World War II were disastrous in many instances. Comprehensive basic intelligence is also required in this cold war period as one basis for sound national intelligence and strategic planning. To this end, the NIS is produced in accordance with current priorities established by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. CIA's job is essentially that of coordinating this complex program, reviewing the contributions and publishing the end product. Some forty components within agencies of the Government, including the CIA, participate in this program in accordance with their specialized capabilities.] For example, the Bureau of Mines contributes in the field of minerals, the Army Signal Corps on telecommunications, and the Air Force on weather and climate in coordination with the Joint Meteorological Committee.

It should be remembered that [the material printed in the NIS represents only a portion of the intelligence made available under the operation of the program. The stimulation of collection activities to fill "gaps" existing in the intelligence field, has provided a great new reservoir of information. Detailed information, analyzed in the process of producing the NIS but not appearing therein, is available in organized form and provides an invaluable source for the day-to-day and operational intelligence requirements of the agencies. The NIS program is a formidable task. Considerable progress has been made, yet much still has to be done. Essentially 45% of the total world coverage has been completed, most of which is on areas of high priority. Already, many of the NIS have been placed on a maintenance basis which will provide the more current intelligence lacking in the earlier issuances.]

I cannot stress too strongly the importance of this program. It has proved its value as a standard reference work, as a basis for plans and estimates in critical world areas, as Korea and Indochina, and is finding increasing usefulness in such new fields as psychological warfare. It would, in my opinion, prove invaluable in the event of a major war. In a letter written in 1945 to the Chief of Naval Operations, the Commandant, US Marine Corps, wrote: "Our experience in this war has effectively proved that if the United States is to have the necessary basic intelligence available for early planning of possible operations, it is essential that such intelligence be collected, collated, published, and distributed -- i.e. ready to use-- prior to the beginning of hostilities."